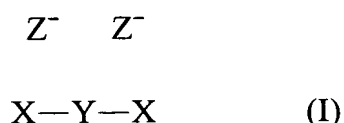


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A compound having anti-viral activity and the general formula (I):



5 wherein

X represents a heterocyclic cation, comprising at least one hetero atom selected from a group consisting of free nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen;

Y is $-(CH_2)_n-$;

n is an integer ranging from 2 to 9; and

10 Z^- is halide ion, hexafluorophosphate or tetrafluoroborate.

2. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein X is pyridinium, pyridazinium, pyrimidinium, pyrazinium, imidazolium, N-(C₁-C₄ alkyl) substituted imidazolium, pyrazolium, N-(C₁-C₄ alkyl) substituted pyrazolium, thiazolium, pyrrolidinium or oxazolium.

15 3. The compound according to Claim 2, wherein X is pyridinium or imidazolium.

4. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein Y is $(CH_2)_3-$.

5. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein Z^- is bromide ion.

20 6. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein X is pyridinium or imidazolium, Y is $(CH_2)_3-$, and Z^- is bromide ion.

7. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein the virus is a small RNA virus (Picornaviridae).

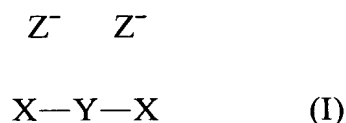
8. The compound according to Claim 7, wherein the virus is

enterovirus.

9. The compound according to Claim 8, wherein the virus is enterovirus type 71.

10. A composition comprising any of the compounds according to Claims 1 and its acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

11. A method for antagonizing viruses in vitro by putting compound of general formula (I) in contact with the virus to inhibit the activity of virus:



10 wherein

X represents a heterocyclic cation, comprising at least one hetero atom selected from a group consisting of free nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen;

Y is $-(CH_2)_n-$;

n is an integer ranging from 2 to 9; and

15 Z^- is halide ion, hexafluorophosphate or tetrafluoroborate.

12. The method according to Claim 11, wherein X is pyridinium, pyridazinium, pyrimidinium, pyrazinium, imidazolium, N-(C₁-C₄ alkyl) substituted imidazolium, pyrazolium, N-(C₁-C₄ alkyl) substituted pyrazolium, thiazolium, pyrrolidinium or oxazolium.

20 13. The method according to Claim 12, wherein X is pyridinium or imidazolium.

14. The method according to Claim 11, wherein Y is $(CH_2)_3-$.

15. The method according to Claim 11, wherein Z^- is bromide ion.

16. The method according to Claim 11, wherein X is pyridinium or imidazolium, Y is $(\text{CH}_2)_3-$, and Z⁻ is bromide ion.

17. The method according to Claim 11, wherein the virus is a small RNA virus (Picornaviridae).

5 18. The method according to Claim 17, wherein the virus is enterovirus.

19. The compound according to Claim 18, wherein the virus is enterovirus type 71.

10 20. A method for antagonizing viruses in vitro by putting a composition according to Claim 10 in contact with the virus to inhibit the activity of virus.